

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
“VALUES, TRENDS, HOPES & DREAMS”
WORKSHEET**

STEP ONE: This first exercise is intended to get your perspective on the key values and trends for the Town of Merrimac. Please take **5 minutes** to write down your responses to the following questions. This brainstorming session is meant to be completed in a short timeframe. At the end of this meeting, we will ask that you return this sheet, so please write as neatly as possible.

What do you value most about the Town of Merrimac?

1. The farms that were here and the few that are left.
2. The railroad from 1871 to the present
3. The recreational areas like Devil's Lake, Bluffs, and Parphry's Glen.
4. The old school house – Chapel Hill now Town Hall.
5. The recreation – Lake Wisconsin; boating, golf, hiking
6. The small town – non-business atmosphere (2)
7. The farm culture
8. The Bluffs & Lake (2)
9. Parfry's Glen and other natural areas
10. The wildlife
11. Community caring for Town/Township
12. Rural, agricultural feel – small town atmosphere
13. Recreational/environmental/aesthetic benefits of Lake Wisconsin
14. Recreational/environmental/aesthetic benefits of proximity to Devil's Lake
15. Very rich history
16. Natural beauty of area
17. Moderate size of township
18. Ability to know town issues and participate in decisions
19. Nearness to moderate size services – Baraboo, Sauk
20. Orderly growth, defined by boundaries
21. Acceptance of restrictions
22. Natural beauty
23. Bluffs (2)
24. Lake Wisconsin (2)
25. Minimum development
26. Rural character
27. Rural nature – Bluffs, Lake (2)
28. Good Town government – services, roads, planning & zoning
29. Effort of Power Company to conserve land
30. Citizens Coop on conserving Bluffs
31. Friends in Town
32. Atmosphere of no urban dwellings
33. Farm land and country outdoor setting vs. city
34. Not having city sewer, water to cover – do on our own
35. Keeping growth maintained and contained
36. Small size/community
37. Friendly, safe, private



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38. Lower taxes than neighboring municipalities
39. Low crime, traffic, and pollution
40. Natural surroundings
41. Wonderful down to earth people
42. Quietness of the area
43. Open space
44. Location relative to State Park and water
45. Clean air
46. Enjoyment of the lake

What are the most crucial trends affecting the Town?

1. More upscale housing – fewer low to middle income houses
2. Children
3. Keep Merrimac rural – farms
4. Leave big stores to Baraboo, Sauk, Madison
5. Hwy 12 (2)
6. Bridge vs. ferry
7. Development (2)
8. Devil's Head wanting to develop more land for town homes
9. Development of lands adjacent to Lake Wisconsin
10. Development of Baraboo Hills
11. Transportation issues related to STH 78 reconstruction
12. Pressure for development – especially on lakeshore
13. Funding of necessary services
14. Pressure to expand growth
15. Preservation of rural beauty
16. Threat of development
17. Expansion of Devil's Head
18. Pressure on the lake by increasing boating activity
19. The additional growth (2)
20. the loss of our agricultural base – big farm operations
21. Property taxes!
22. Hwy 78 south growing – Lake Wisconsin
23. Growing need for more governmental interaction
24. High land prices
25. Higher taxes
26. Population growth from larger cities (i.e., Madison)
27. Increase in tourism – Lake
28. Land development – loss of natural resources
29. Future growth
30. Township taxes & expenses
31. Common sense planning of future growth
32. Punishing the majority for the minorities infractions (creating new ordinances instead of fining the people who violate existing ordinances)
33. Residential development
34. Lack of business
35. Loss of farm identity
36. Extra travel for 'basic' needs
37. Large amount of growth
38. Housing cost
39. Loss of agricultural lands

